



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yukihito ICHIKAWA

Group Art Unit: 1724

Application No.: 10/816,851

Examiner: J. GREENE

Filed: April 5, 2004

Docket No.: 119362

For: HONEYCOMB STRUCTURE, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME, DIE  
FOR FORMING, AND DISCHARGE FLUID PURIFICATION SYSTEM

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 28, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect  
Group I, claims 1-12, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related  
that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a  
search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that  
the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.  
See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire  
application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits,  
even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is  
respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid  
unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent  
Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 17, 2006

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